

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings include changes to Figs. 3 and 5. The sheets, which include Fig. 3 and Fig. 5, replace the original sheets including Figs. 3 and 5. Reference No. 113 has been removed in a single location in both of these drawing figures.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 14 are amended and claims 22-34 are added. The specification is amended at various locations to correct typographical errors. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. THE DRAWINGS

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(4) because Reference No. 113 appears to identify two different elements in Figs. 3 and 5. Enclosed herewith are corrected versions of Figs. 3 and 5 in which Reference No. 113 has been removed from a single location in each of the drawing figures. The corrected versions of Figs. 3 and 5 now correspond to the description provided in the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. CLAIMS 1-12

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 USC §102(b) over Yoo (Korean Patent Publication No. 1994-6388). Because Yoo fails to disclose or suggest all the features of these claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. Claims 1-5

Claim 1 is directed to a filter for a washing machine. Claim 1 recites a cap fitted to a filter case, a shaft extending from a bottom of the cap, and an extension extending from an end of the shaft. Claim 1 further recites that the extension is disposed to confront the opening. Claim 1 also recites that the extension has a protrusion protruding from the side of the extension opposite the cap, that the protrusion extends away from the cap, and that the protrusion has a diameter that is smaller than a largest diameter portion of the extension.

The Yoo reference discloses a filter assembly for a washing machine which includes a conical shaped filter element 9 which is inserted inside a cylindrical casing. The Office Action asserts that the conical portion corresponds to the claimed extension, and that the ring like portion which extends back away from the conical portion comprises the claimed protrusion.

Applicant notes that the ring shaped portion which extends away from the rear of the conical shaped portion of the Yoo filter assembly has essentially the same diameter as the largest diameter portion of the conical portion. Accordingly, Yoo fails to disclose or suggest a filter wherein a protrusion extending from a side of the extension opposite the cap has a diameter that is smaller than a largest diameter portion of the extension. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Yoo. Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features that they recite.

B. Claims 6-12

Claim 6 is also directed to a filter assembly for a washing machine. Claim 6 recites a filter case comprising an inlet and an outlet along with an opening. Claim 6 further recites a filter loaded in the filter case, the filter comprising a cap fitted to the filter case, a shaft extending from the bottom of the cap, and an extension extending from an end of the shaft. Claim 6 further recites that the extension is solid walled and that the extension is disposed to confront the opening. Claim 6 further recites that the extension has a protrusion protruding from a side of the extension opposite to the cap.

The filter assembly of the Yoo reference is generally discussed above. Applicants also note that the conical shaped filter element 9 in the Yoo filter assembly has a plurality of apertures or slots which allow water to pass through the conical portion. Because the largest diameter exterior portions of the filter element 9 abut the inside diameter of the casing, it is necessary for water to pass through the conical portion in order to exit the filter assembly.

In contrast, claim 6 recites that the filter has a solid walled extension extending from an end of the shaft. Because the conical shaped filter element of the Yoo reference has a plurality of apertures or slots, this portion of the Yoo filter element is not solid walled. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable. Claims 7-12 depend from claim 6 and are allowance for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features that they recite.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-12 over Yoo is respectfully requested.

III. CLAIMS 6 AND 13

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 13 under 35 USC §102(b) over Beier (German Patent Publication No. 39 22 629). Because Beier fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claims 6 and 13, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Beier reference discloses a filter assembly for a washing machine. The Beier filter includes a casing 1 which includes an inlet pipe 4 and an outlet pipe 5. An impeller 3 rotates to force water out the outlet pipe 5.

A filter element 6 is inserted into the casing 1. The filter element 6 includes a cylindrical shaft portion 11 which extends from a cap portion 20. A labyrinth filter 10 is located on an opposite end of the shaft 11. The labyrinth filter 10 includes an interior passage way which forces water to enter the labyrinth filter, reverse direction as the water passes towards the center of the labyrinth filter, and then reverse direction again as the water exits a small diameter exit hole 9 formed at the rear of the filter 10. The smaller diameter exit hole 9 is formed by a portion of the rear wall 8 of the labyrinth filter which extends back towards the cap.

As noted above, claim 6 recites a filter loaded in a filter casing which includes a solid walled extension extending from an end of a shaft. The Office Action asserts that the labyrinth filter 10 corresponds to the claimed extension. However, as noted above, the Beier labyrinth filter 10 is not solid walled. Instead, passageways are deliberately formed inside the labyrinth filter to allow water to travel through a labyrinth path through the walls of the filter before it exits from the center hole 9 at the rear end of the labyrinth filter 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Beier fails to disclose or suggest a solid walled extension extending

from an end of the shaft, as recited in claim 6. For at least this reason it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable. Claim 13 depends from claim 6 and is allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features it recites.

In view of all the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 13 is respectfully requested.

IV. CLAIMS 14-20

The Office Action rejects claims 14-20 under 35 USC §103(a) over Yoo, in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,733). Because Yoo and Lee fail to disclose or suggest all the features of these claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 is directed to a washing machine which includes a filter assembly. Claim 14 recites that the filter assembly includes a filter case and a filter loaded in the filter case. Claim 14 recites that the filter comprises a cap fitted to the filter case, a shaft extending from a bottom of the cap, and a solid walled extension extending from an end of the shaft.

As noted above, Yoo fails to disclose or suggest a filter assembly for a washing machine which includes a solid walled extension extending from an end of a shaft. Instead, in the Yoo filter assembly, the extension has a plurality of perforations or slots. The Lee reference fails to cure these deficiencies of Yoo. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that 14 is allowable over Yoo and Lee. Claims 15-20 depend from claim 14 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features they recite.

In view the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-20 is respectfully requested.

V. CLAIMS 14 AND 21

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 21 under 35 USC §103(a) over Beier, in view of Lee. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 14 recites a filter which includes a solid walled extension extending from an end of a shaft. As also noted above, the Beier reference fails to disclose or suggest a solid walled extension. Lee fails to cure this deficiency of Beier. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is allowable over Beier and Lee. Claim 21 depends from claim 14 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14 and 21 is respectfully requested.

V. NEW CLAIMS 22-34

By this Amendment, claims 22-34 are added to the application. Claim 22 is a new independent claim and claims 23-28 all ultimately depend from new claim 22. Claims 29 and 30 ultimately depend from claim 1, claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 6, and claims 33 and 34 depend from claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 22-34 are allowable over the references of record for reasons similar to those discussed above.

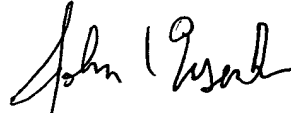
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would

place the application in better condition, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



John C. Eisenhart
Registration No. 38,128

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 JCE/krf
Date: August 1, 2006

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610